Number.	From whom received	Subject.
13	Kanaku Mathaven Padmanabhen and 20 others of Pathanapuram Taluq	On the Marumakkathayam Marriage Bill.
14	Ramen Kali and 29 others of Pathanapuram Taluq..	Do.
15	Ramen Krishnan and 3 others of Tiruvella Taluq ...	Do.
16	Neelacunden Kasaven of Chengannur Taluq ...	Do.
17	Narayanan Ramen and 16 others of do.	Do.
18	Narayanan Neelacunden of do.	Do.
19	Narayanan Padmanabhen of Chirayinkil Taluq ...	Do.
20	Ramen Govinden of Chengannur Taluq	Do.
21	Krishnen Velayudhan and 402 others of Mavelikara, Kartigapalli &c.	Do.
22	Subramonia Pillay Sivan Pillay and 152 others of Nanjinad	Do.
23	Certain inhabitants of Kartigapalli, Tiruvella, Chenganur &c.	Do.
24	Krishnan Thampi of Chengannur Taluq	Do.
25	Keralan Krishnan and 8 others of Kottayam Taluq..	Do.
26	Keralan Narayanan and another of do.	Do.
27	Sankaren Parameswaren of do.	Do.
28	Ramen Ramen and 9 others of do.	Do.
29	Krishna Iyen of Muncombu	On the Wills Bill.
30	Sivasubramonia Pillay, High Court Vakil, Takalay..	Do.
31	Annaswami Iyen of Shencottah	On the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill.
32	K. Anandanarayana Iyen, Tahsildar, Shencottah ...	Do.
33	Krishna Iyen of Muncombu	Do.
34	Raja Raja Vurma of Haripad...	On the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill and the Penal Code Bill

GENERAL CLAUSES BILL.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—At the last meeting the General Clauses Bill, as revised by the Select Committee, was considered by the Council and it has to be finally read to-day. No amendments have been suggested and I beg to move that the Bill, as it now stands amended, be passed into law.

Seconded by Mr. Nagam Aiya.

Carried.

IRRIGATION BILL.

SECTION 16.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—The first among the amendments of which I have given notice is in regard to section 16. I would substitute for the words "section 6, para 1 of section 11, section 12 and section 15," the words "sections 6, 11, 12 and 15." The wording of the section now stands as it was amended by the Council on the 14th November 1896—"The cost of any work executed under section 6, para 1 of section 11, section 12 and section 15 shall be a first charge on the lands benefited by such work and shall be recovered from such lands as arrears of public revenue in such equal yearly instalments not less than five as may be fixed by Our Government, from time to time." Reference is made only to para 1 of section 11. The whole section should have been brought in. Section 11, it will be noted, deals with two sets of cases in which the works are carried out at Government cost. 1st, where no objections are put in at all or where the majority of proprietors assent and 2ndly, where even the majority withold consent it is found by Government that the work should be executed in the interests of the proprietors concerned. The cost incurred under either set of conditions is clearly recoverable. It was by mere oversight the whole section was not referred to. The amendment proposed rectifies this. The rest of the change suggested is merely verbal. Instead of repeating the word 'section' singular plural is used.

Seconded by Mr. Krishnaswamy Rao.

Carried.

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Mr. Thanu Pillai.—In the same section, I have another amendment to propose. In line 3, insert the words '*pro rata*' between 'recovered' and 'from.' In the absence of these words, it has been rightly pointed out, there is the possibility of misapprehension—that each of the lands benefited is liable individually for the *entire* cost. The intention of the Legislature is, of course, to impose ratable liability and it is well to place it beyond all doubt.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—The next amendment on the paper is this:—Add a new para to section 16 viz.—'Our Government may remit, in whole or in part, the cost of any petty or minor Irrigation work recoverable under the 1st para of this section.'

In section 30, it will be observed, power is reserved to Government to regulate, *inter alia*, the number of instalments in which the cost of petty irrigation works may be recovered and *the circumstances under which remission of such cost may be granted in part or whole*. But the Bill contains no substantive provision authorising remission. The present amendment supplies this omission. The para proposed to be added is, in fact, no new addition but an express statement in its proper place of what was intended. I should mention that the amendment extends the benefit of remission to minor works also, to ensure even treatment and due regard to rights or privileges now enjoyed.

Seconded by Mr. Prince.

Carried.

SECTION 30, (4).

I would next take up the connected amendment—the fifth on the paper viz.—In line 1, section 30 (4), insert the words "and minor" after "petty." In line 2, omit the words "under section 16" and in the last line, omit the words "in part or whole" and insert the words "under section 16" after "granted." The changes are merely verbal—consequential on the previous amendment just passed.

Seconded by Mr. Kuruvila.

Carried.

SECTION 21.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—I now beg to move the remaining amendment which relates to section 21.

For clause (1) substitute the following.—"The land shall not be used for any purpose other than such irrigation work except with the special sanction of Government."

The modification proposed needs perhaps a word of explanation. Sections 19 and 20 provide for the assumption of private land by Government at the instance and in behalf of a private individual for the purpose of an Irrigation work in which he is interested. Ordinarily the land of one private individual ought not to be interfered with for the sake of another private individual. But there are obvious exceptions justified by predominating public advantages—e. g. Assumption of land for Railway Companies, Water Works Companies &c. The taking up of land to help a ryot to construct an Irrigation work as contemplated in section 19 has rightly been brought within the scope of such exceptions. But too much care cannot be taken to prevent undue advantage being taken of the provision and the power of Government obtained to strengthen the hands of mere land speculators. Hence the stringent conditions laid down in section 21. I wish to invite your attention to the first of these—clause (1), 'The land shall be used only for the purpose of such Irrigation work.' This restriction it strikes me is too absolute and excludes certain uses of the land which are perfectly legitimate and compatible with the object intended. For instance, the land for the irrigation of which the assumption was made might cease to be cultivable. It would certainly be a great hardship to insist on the land taken up being left in such cases quite unused. Again, here is a better case. In seasons of drought the beds of tanks are often used for dry cultivation. Even this temporary use is not permissible as the wording of the clause now stands. While every precaution should be taken against the abuse of the exceptional provision it is necessary to see that it works no serious practical hardship. This can be fully attained, I think, by

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the amendment I have proposed. Each case of departure comes to the cognizance of Government and has to receive sanction.

Mr. Prince.—I second the amendment. It is very necessary. The sanction of Government insisted on is a guarantee against abuse.

Mr. Kuruvila.—I consider the modification desirable and essential. It promotes the further beneficial use of the land with sufficient safe-guard against any obnoxious use as explained by the mover. The channel may for example be used as a navigation channel.

Carried.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—No other amendments have been received as far as I am aware. I therefore beg to move that the Bill as now amended be passed and that it come into force on the 1st of Chingom 1073.

The motion was put and agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Krishnaswamy Rao.—I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Legislative Council Regulation Amendment Bill. The Bill as revised may be taken into consideration at the next meeting.

BILL TO AMEND THE ABKARI REGULATION (I OF 1054).

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—At a previous meeting of the Council I obtained permission to introduce a Bill to amend the Abkari Regulation (I of 1054). I now beg to introduce it. I will just say a few words in explanation of the measure.

Regulation I of 1054 which, as amended by Regulation I of 1055, is the existing Abkari law of Travancore is a reproduction of Madras Act III of 1864. The latter Act, having been found to be defective in reference to the improvements in the system of Abkari administration which have been successively and successfully introduced in the Madras Presidency, was amended by Act V of 1879 and subsequently wholly repealed by Act I of 1886; while our law and system of Abkari administration have remained unaltered. The system which prevails here and which prevailed in British India about a quarter of a century ago is the Farming system under which the privilege of manufacture and sale of all spirituous and fermented liquors within specified areas is sold to a farmer or renter for a lump sum determined by competition in auction. Theoretically, the number and sites of the shops and the minimum price at which liquor could be sold are fixed by Government; but in practice, the farmer opens as many shops as he chooses and sells liquor of any strength, at any price, his sole object of course being to secure the largest possible profit; and the cheapening of the price of this, so to speak, "conventional necessary" naturally tends to stimulate and increase consumption. In British India, this system is now confined to certain small areas, and the system by which it has been replaced may be described as the "Central Distillery System." Under this system, the privilege of manufacture and supply is disposed of separately from that of sale. All liquor should be manufactured in a Distillery under proper supervision, and duty is levied on the spirit, according to its strength, as it is issued from the Distillery to vendors. The number of vend shops is determined by the chief revenue officer of the District and the privilege of sale is sold either by shops separately or by tracts. The licensed vendor is bound to purchase all liquor from the Distillery on payment of the prescribed still-head charge which includes the duty, cost of manufacture and profits of the manufacturer. There are different varieties of the Distillery system, but the above are the chief and the common features of them all.

It will be observed that the most important feature of the Distillery system is that, under it, it is possible to charge a duty on every gallon of spirit that passes into consumption according to its strength, so that by a proper adjustment of the duty, it enables Government to secure the maximum revenue with the minimum consumption. Against this decided advantage must be set the scope which the system affords for illicit manufacture and sale. Under the farming system the interest of the

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